



Letters About Literature
“A Book That Shaped Me”
The Library of Congress National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest

★ **Information for Educators and Parents:**

The Library of Congress National Book Festival is presenting a summer writing contest to encourage rising 5th & 6th graders to reflect on the books that have made a personal impact on their lives. The Letters About Literature - “A Book That Shaped Me” Summer Writing Contest is administered as part of public library summer reading programs and top winners will be honored at the Library of Congress National Book Festival, which will take place September 2, 2017 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

We ask for your assistance in encouraging students to participate in this opportunity to share their enthusiasm for books. This year the contest is available through participating public library locations in DC, MD, VA, DE, PA, and WV! For a full list of participating libraries, visit the “A Book That Shaped Me” National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest website, www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/ Contest entry forms are available at participating library locations and at the Library of Congress Young Readers Center. Downloadable entry forms are available on-line at the contest website.

Children may ask for your help in finalizing their letters. Please be willing to offer guidance by proofreading and making suggestions on how they might improve their letters. You could show them resources to help them with grammar and structure, or even refer them to online proofreading resources. The work must be the student's original work, but suggestions about structure and form, and proofreading from a caring adult can show children how to use help, even with their creative efforts.

If you plan to engage a group of students from your school/organization/summer camp, etc., in the “A Book That Shaped Me” Summer Writing Contest we'd love to know! Please send an email with the subject line “Summer Writing Contest Participation” and the following information to BooksShapeContest@loc.gov - your name, title, organization, contact information, number of students who will participate in the contest, and home library.